

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.927
Amateur Radio Newsline #927 23 May 1995

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Text Version information

BBS Networks: RIME - RO mail to Steve Coletti, ->35
Fido - Netmail to Steve Coletti @ 1:278/230
Others - Steve Coletti (within the conference)

Online Services: America Online - tstader@aol.com (Terry Stader, Sysop)
or D.CARY@genie.geis.com

Usenet: rec.radio.info - david@stat.com (David Dodel, Moderator)

File Requests: FidoNet users can Freq the latest edition of NEWSLINE
from Joe Brown, KB2NBN 1:2625/111
FTP to oak.oakland.edu - wy1z@neu.edu (Scott Erlich,
Boston ARC - librarian)

Internet E-Mail: Send mail to listserv@netcom.com with the following commands in the body of the message (the subject is ignored)

To subscribe: `subscribe newslines-list`

To unsubscribe: `unsubscribe newslines-list`

For more information: `help`

Manual mailing lists are also maintained by bigsteve@dorsai.org for individual subscribers and by D.CARY@genie.geis.com for BBS's and radio clubs that redistribute Newline.

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. For current information updates, please call

Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line).....	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 353-2801
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, FL.....	(407) 768-7449

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GENie (RTC Bulletin Board).....	m345;1
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Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
Delphi.....	In the ham radio conference
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0
Internet.....	In the rec.radio.info newsgroup
Internet FTP: oak.oakland.edu.....	
In archive: pub/hamradio/docs/newsline	
Local BBS's.....	In the Ham Radio conferences on
Fidonet, RIME, Intellec, I-Link and AR-Net	

For questions or comments about the text version, contact me at D.CARY@GENIE.GEIS.COM on the Internet.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[927]

The following is a OST

Ham radio and the Oklahoma explosion. A story not told until now. Find out more on Newsline report number 927 coming your way right now!

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OKLAHOMA BOMBING

The April 19th bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma shocked Americans like no event has ever before. The heavy loss of life, 168 people, and the emotional rescue effort drew worldwide attention. Among the people helping put lives and affairs back in order after the blast were amateur radio operators. We have a special report on the role hams played after the bombing.

Tornados, severe thunderstorms, that's what Oklahoma is used to dealing with. For amateur radio operators in the state, emergency communications usually means operating nets to assist with severe weather spotting and damage recovery. But April 19th brought a new sense of reality. A new sense of understanding about what disaster can mean. While Americans stared in disbelief at the live video of flames, damage and crying children being carried by fire fighters. Oklahoma hams didn't wait for someone to ask for help.

"I would say it was self activation. A lot of people heard the explosion." Tom Webb, WA9AFM

Tom Webb, WA9AFM is the ARRL Public Information Officer in Oklahoma.

"A lot of our local hams tend to monitor 22/82, which is the primary frequency. And it was essentially everyone realized something was wrong and monitored. Once we received official word, which was about 15 to 20 minutes after the blast, we officially activated the local ARES Net and we continued to operate continuously for about 330 hours." WA9AFM

In all nearly 335 hams provided some sort of communications assistance. Hams responded from Kansas and Texas. And there was plenty of need for what amateur radio could provide.

"We fanned out to various hospitals, this was in accordance with the catastrophic disaster plan that was already in place and which had been practiced frequently in the past. Hams were stationed in the emergency rooms, at the various regional hospitals around the city coordinating casualty evacuation, supply transfers and so on.

After that phase was over we moved into our support phase where we were assigned to the various Salvation Army canteens, warehouses and state emergency command posts to coordinate moving

of supplies, although our original function was to provide emergency communication it fell to us also to provide drivers because the limited access to the area, because in fact it was a crime scene. Hams who had such things as pickup trucks, suburbans, vans also were assigned to move a lot of supplies to the various areas." WA9AFM

Even in the heart of downtown, where cellular telephone service was available, there were communications problems only amateur radio could overcome.

"In the downtown area, there are quite a few cellular nodes, public service and commercial radio transceivers. Those were knocked off the air and were therefore useless. And of course initially there was a tremendous load on the phone circuits, cellular circuits and also the public service radio. We provided underlying communications that allowed supplies to be ordered and transferred and their use coordinated. Our big contribution, I think was the fact we operating out of areas where there were no normal communications. Virtually everyone of the Salvation Armies six canteens were setup in the middle of the street. Obviously with no phone service in most of the buildings around the area were condemned and not inhabitable. We were the only none public service communications available." WA9AFM

There were technical challenges to overcome in providing communications. Webb says Oklahoma hams have a name for the vary area they had to setup stations in.

"We were in what is referred to as Intermod Alley. And in the case of the canteens, being located on the street and in the first few days being moved quite frequently. In one place a handheld transceiver would work quite nicely and move a hundred feet in one direction and it wouldn't work at all. So we discovered that some sort of portable gain antenna is necessary in a situation like this. We also had problems the Sunday after the explosion when all of the pager, commercial and public service radios started coming back on the air down there and the intermod interference really stared to get bad for us. We had to fabricate some intermod fitting stubs and send them downtown so folks could use those to help with the intermod problem." WA9AFM

Disaster ready hams in Oklahoma know how important being ready for emergencies is. They keep emergency communications kits in their cars. The kits include materials like batteries, power adapters, and magnetic mount antennas. That kind of thinking ahead gave hams an advantage during the crisis. Webb says amateur radio operators put in a total of about 5500 man hours

assisting in the explosions aftermath. Now they can look back at the nearly two weeks of communications services that they provided.

"I wouldn't want to do it again. But it certainly makes me feel good about the way we handled it. About the way all the agencies that were involved handled it. As one ham in the local area put it, I have never been prouder of my ham ticket than over the past two weeks." WA9AFM

April 19th brought the kind of communications emergency most hams have never even dreamed about. But Tom Webb says the Oklahoma hams handled it. And they did it with professionalism and pride.

One ham was inside the federal building when the explosion hit but escaped without injury. A second ham was inside a department store across the street from the Federal building the blast threw him across his desk. But he escaped serious injury by grabbing his chair as he was being blown across the room. That helped protect him from flying glass. Tom Webb sez that as far as he has been able to determine none of the people killed in the explosion were amateur radio operators.

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Rules Changes Proposed

The FCC has proposed amateur service rules changes that would affect license examinations, call signs for special event stations, and indicators of portable operation.

First, the FCC proposes to designate one volunteer examiner of a team as the examination session manager. Next, the Commission proposes to give examination credit to former licensees. And to ensure that only bona fide Amateur Radio clubs obtain station licenses the FCC wants to increase to four persons the minimum number of members required to constitute an organization eligible for a club station license.

The FCC also has proposed a change suggested by the ARRL. As part of the vanity call sign proceeding, the Commission has proposed to make one by one call signs available to stations operating in conjunction with short-term events of special significance to the amateur service community.

And the FCC also has proposed to allow portable indicators, such as slash KP2, to be included before, after, or both before and after, the assigned call sign.

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Study Proposes Added Ham Bands

A government study has concluded that amateurs could use 2180 additional kilohertz of spectrum. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration reports this need in a just released ten year projection of spectrum requirements for all licensed radio services.

The NTIA believes that hams should be granted 5 new 50 KHz wide slots in the frequency range of 30 to 50 MHz for a total of 250 KHz of new bandspace; a new allocation from 160 to 190 kHz; Another 50 KHz wide near 5 MHz; Expansion of 10 MHz band by at least 200 kHz; Expansion of 14 MHz band by 50 kHz; Expansion of 18 MHz band by another 150 kHz; Expansion of 24 MHz band by adding 150 kHz; Speedy implementation of the new 219 to 220 MHz band and a Satellite downlink, 29.7 to 30.0 MHz.

The NTIA report notes that the amateur community commenters have suggested significant changes to the allocation table to accommodate expanded amateur operations. Many of the suggested allocation revisions the NTIA says are reasonable.

But there is one cheviot. The study said that any sharing of military radiolocation spectrum with the amateur services on a co-primary basis in current Federal radiolocation bands is not feasible because of the potential loss of operational flexibility for military radar systems. Further, the expansion of use in the 902-928 MHz band by federal and non-federal users, including the operation of wind profiling radars, may make this band untenable for amateur operations in the future.

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FCC DATA ON INTERNET

The Federal Communications Commission is now offering the complete amateur service database on the Internet, via the FCC's file transfer protocol or FTP site.

This new service marks the beginning of electronic granting of licenses at the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. As soon as the data for a new license appears in the database, the license is effective and all privileges of that license may be exercised by the licensee.

Licensees will no longer need to wait to receive a license document in the mail they may use the database as proof of licensing and go on the air immediately.

The database will be updated every Monday by noon Eastern time.

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NEW YORK PHONE

A Newsline feed point is back in service in New York City thanks to Pat Patierno, KB2MQP and the Kings County Repeater

Association in Brooklyn New York. The new line is a part of the clubs voice mail system and also features a menu of other services provided by the KCRA. To access the New York City newsline feed dial area code (718) 284-0752. When the phone answers hit the pound sign key followed by the number 1. Newsline will start up and you can record it or play it live on the air.

Our thanks to Pat Patierno and the members of the Kings County Repeater Association for making this new service possible.

And, by the way. An interesting piece of trivia. One of the founding members of the Kings County Repeater Association is our own producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. Back in the 1960's he lived in Brooklyn, held the call sign WA2HVK and along with Larry Levy WA2INM built the first repeater placed in service by the KCRA.

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Crocker Public Service Group

Bob DeMattia, AK1J, and others have formed the Crocker Public Service Group. This is a non-commercial association formed to provide amateur radio support for public service events.

The name chosen honors the memory of past Section Manager Dave Crocker, W1TMO, of Needham, Massachusetts. Dave was a very active amateur who devoted much time and energy to public service and other worthwhile causes.

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Balloon Delay

Dave Mullenix, N9LTD reports via packet that due to weather and problems with launch site availability, the BARS-1 weather balloon launch has been postponed to a date to be announced, probably in early May. Sorry for the inconvenience, but between the Wisconsin weather, the holiday season and the upcoming UW Engineering Expo, we've just been stumped. Watch packet for announcement of the new launch date.

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A GIFT OF LIFE

G4KSJ reports that ninety four year old Frank Gajowniczek passed away. Fifty years ago, in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, his life was spared when the Polish priest and Radio Amateur, Father Maximilian Kolbe, SP8RN, offered His life in exchange for the life of condemned Gajowniczek. The Camp Commandant accepted the offer. Father Kolbe died by starvation.

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Fr. Len Bose W6BSO, S.K.

Some sad news to report. WA6ZTY says that Father Leonard Bose, W6BSO, became a silent key on February 16th in Oakland, California. He was the Pastor at St. Athanasius Parish in Mt. View and, for 22 years, pastor at St. Lucy Church in Fremont. Father Len was also an avid Ham and DX'er. He was 78 years old.

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DX CONVENTION

In DX, the 4th annual New Orleans DX Convention is slated for the weekend of August 25th and 26th at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. A full range of activities is planned. For more information please write to Weston Straunch, W5VBX, at 2238 Lake Oaks Parkway, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122.

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New to CQ Halls of Fame Inductees

Also, CQ Magazine has announced its 1995 inductees into its Contest and DX Halls of Fame.

The sole new member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame is Carl Henson, WB4ZNH.

New members of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame include Ken Wolff, K1EA; Dick Norton, N6AA; Jim Neiger, N6TJ; and Tine Brajnik, S52AA.

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DXCC CLARIFICATION

Finally, the ARRL's DXCC Desk has announced that the recently adopted minimum size rule went into effect on April 20th when it was publicly announced by the ARRL Awards Committee. The rule will apply only to country petitions received by the DXAC on or after that date.

The petition for Scarborough Reef was in the hands of the DXAC before April 20th. For that reason, the rule will not be applied by the DXAC in its deliberations and voting on the Scarborough petition.

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YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

Lastly, a reminder that the nominating period for the 1995 Young Ham of the Year award closes on June 30. That's about a month and a half from now. If you are one of those who requested a nominating form but have not returned it along with the necessary information on your nominee, please consider doing just

that right now. This is because the judging committee will be scattered across the USA and each nominating package must be duplicated so that each person judging has the same information.

The Young Ham of the Year award is open to United States licensed amateur radio operators age 18 or younger who have made significant contributions to the nation, their community or the state of the art in Amateur Radio. Nominating forms are available by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to the Young Ham of the Year Award, in care of Newsline at 28197 Robin Avenue, in Saugus, California 91350. Or you can download the form from the ham radio files area on GEnie or America Online.

The youngster selected as 1995 Young Ham of the Year will receive an expense paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest courtesy of Yaesu USA along with a tour of the Marshall Spaceflight Center and Spacecamp Huntsville thanks to CQ magazine.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
91066

A reminder from our friends at "This Week in Amateur Radio" that they are still around and looking for a new satellite home for their program. Until they do those of you living in the Mid-West can hear "This Week in Amateur Radio" every night of the week over WA0RCR's 160 meter Gateway Net on 1860 KHz AM.

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